

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 MBFR-04 NIC-01 /148 W

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R 011511Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2552

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

XJUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4136

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11982

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJ: LECTURER'S COMMENT ON CHINA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MOSCOW 11939

1. AT PUBLIC LECTURE SEPTEMBER 28 (REFTEL), NOVISTI
POLITICAL OBSERVER AND SELF-CONFESSED SINOLOGIST
K. M. SMIRNOV CLAIMED REPEATEDLY THAT CHOU EN-LAI
WAS FORCED TO TAKE THE LINE HE DID IN SPEECH AT
RECENT TENTH PARTY CONGRESS. CHARACTERIZING CHOU AS
FLEXIBLE, COMPLEX, PRAGMATIC AND ABLE MAN, LECTURER
INSISTED THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ANY KNOWLEDGEABLE
OBSERVER THAT CHOU'S WORDS WERE NOT RPT NOT HIS OWN
BUT FORCED ON HIM BY "SHANGHAI GROUP" LED BY WANG
HUNG-WEN ("A HANDSOME, CULTIVATED MAN, BUT HARDLY
A PROLETARIAN REPRESENTATIVE"). AFTER SNIDE
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REFERENCE TO "UNDERGROUND" NATURE OF RECENT CCP

CONGRESS AND CONVOLUTED DISCUSSION OF PARTY
FACTIONALISM, SMIRNOV CONCLUDED THAT ARMY WAS REAL
FORCE IN CHINA, WITH MILITARY LEADERS A SOLID,
UNITED GROUP IN COMMAND OF PHYSICAL MEANS OF CONTROL,
CITING "HONG KONG CHINA EXPERTS" AS AUTHORITY FOR
THIS VIEW. MANY CHINESE MILITARY LEADERS WERE,
ACCORDING TO SMIRNOV, BOTHERED BY RAPPROCHEMENT
WITH U.S., AND U.S. HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SATISFY
CHINA ON MANY FRONTS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC BENEFITS
AND TAIWAN.

2. COMMENT: SMIRNOV'S TONE RE CHINA WAS RELATIVELY
RELAXED, AND MESSAGE FOR AUDIENCE SEEMED TO BE THAT
CHINA WAS FAINTLY RIDICULOUS PLACE BESET BY INTERNAL
PROBLEMS RATHER THAN IMPORTANT MENACE TO SOVIET
UNION. REMARKS ON CHOU ARE SIMILAR TO PRIVATE
COMMENTS WE HAVE HEARD TO EFFECT THAT CHOU IS
LONE PRAGMATIST SURROUNDED BY WILD MEN.
DUBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW11982
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DUBS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731059/aaaabrctel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 11939
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LECTURER'S COMMENT ON CHINA CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005